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OLDEST AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATION IN THE STATE.

The Maryland Farmer.

A Weekly for the Farmer, Fruit-Grower & Stock-Raiser.

Vol. XXVII.

BALTIMORE, December 12, 1890.

No. 50.

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With what promptness Ayer's Cherry Pectoral stops a distressing cough, soothes the irritated membrane, and induces refreshing sleep. As an anodyne—for soreness of the lungs, especially when hemorrhage or other consumptive symptoms have manifested themselves—and also as an expectorant, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is unsurpassed.

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"For twenty years, during autumn and winter, I had a bad cough. Last October it was much worse, being attended with hemorrhage of the lungs, so that part of the time, I had to keep my bed. Being advised to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, I began to use it, and by the middle of March, having taken about four bottles of the medicine, my cough was cured."—Henry Kesser, Millington, Tenn.

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"Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cured my wife of a severe lung affection, which we supposed to be quick consumption. We now regard this medicine as a household necessity."—W. H. Strickle, Terre Haute, Ind.

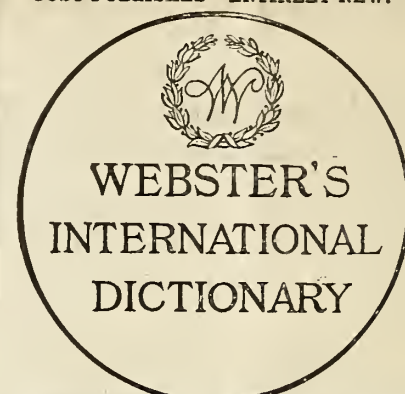
"In April last I was afflicted with a bad cough, and felt uneasy about it, fearing it might terminate in consumption. I tried several kinds of cough remedies; but nothing seemed to help me until I procured a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, which gave me relief at once, and by using less than two bottles, I was able to resume my work."—Jarvis Day. "I hereby certify that the above statement is true in every particular."—M. Shaw, Hartland, N. B.

"Twenty years ago I was troubled with a disease of the lungs. Doctors afforded no relief, and said that I could not live many months. I began to use Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and, before I had finished one bottle, found it was helping me. I continued to take the medicine until I was cured. I believe Ayer's Cherry Pectoral saved my life."—Samuel Griggs, Waukegan, Ill.

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A LONG WINTER

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The Maryland Farmer.

Vol. XXVII.

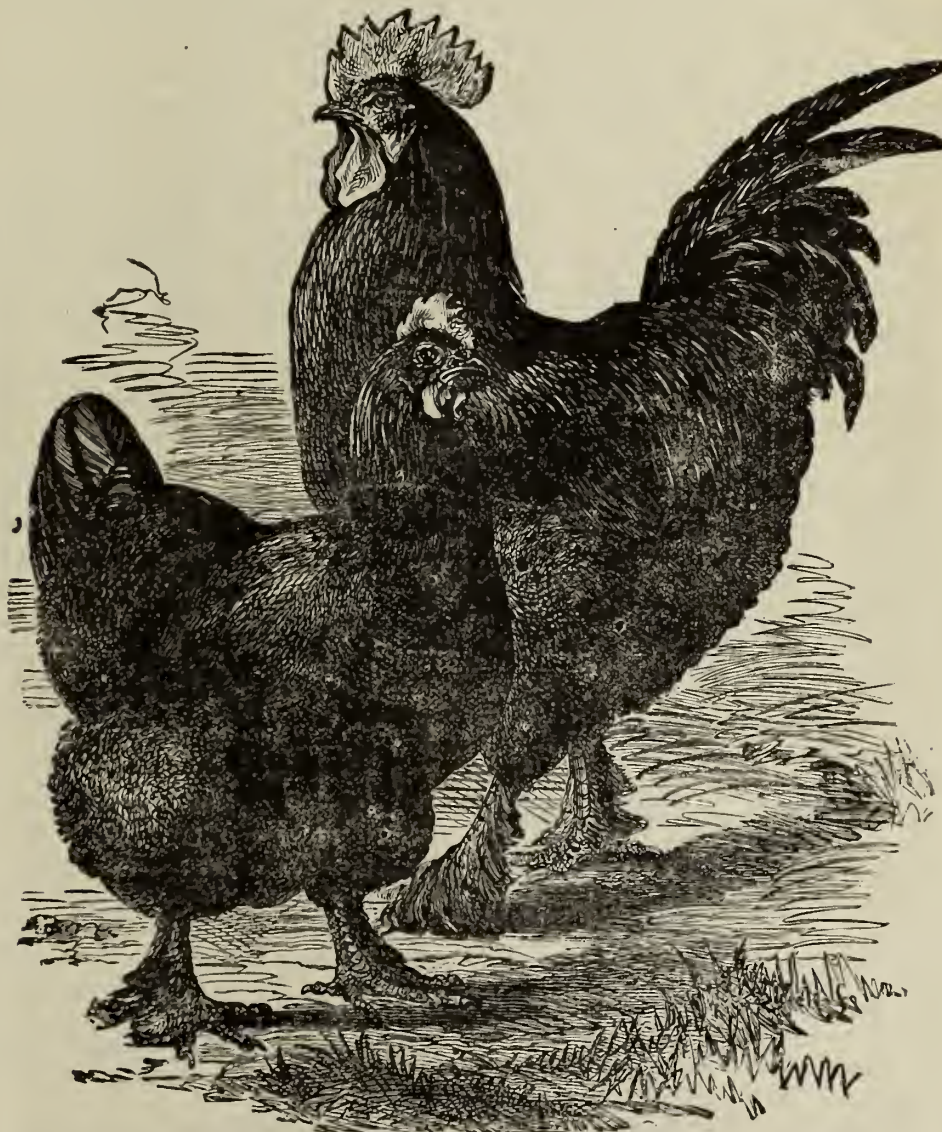
BALTIMORE, December 12, 1890.

No. 50.

LANGSHANS.

To keep up the excellence of a flock all the best males must be selected. As the influence of the males seem always stronger than that of the hens, it is in that direction breeders should look for improvement. The cock should be compact in shape, low to the ground, and active and vigorous. If he

kept in confinement, it is best to avoid males of the Hamburg or Leghorn breeds, as these fowls are great foragers and become restive to a certain degree when confined, but where there is an unlimited range, good pasture, and an abundance of insects within their compass, perhaps it is safe to claim that they cannot be excelled for crossing on the common fowls. For a breed that unites nearly all the good qualities,



has one that has matured early he will transmit that tendency to the pullets bred from him, and this is one of the most important points of all to observe in selecting. The preference is generally for large, heavy cocks, but when it is considered that it is not in the order of nature to produce quantity without sufficient time for the operation, the gain in weight is at the expense of earliness of maturity. If the fowls are to be

having beauty and utility combined, the Langshans take a high place. In the exhibits at fairs and poultry shows, they are in the front rank and practical poultry raisers are now giving them the preference for a fowl that can be depended upon for eggs, that is an economic feeder, comes to the broiler age early and possesses a quality of flesh that brings the

(Continued on next page.)

THE MARYLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL,
HORTICULTURAL AND STOCK RAISING INTERESTS.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT
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BARRETT C. CATLIN, Publisher.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1890.

LANGSHANS.

highest prices. They are hardy and less liable to disease than many other breeds. The eggs hatch well, and the young chicks grow rapidly and are easily raised.

The White Langshan are much esteemed. They are very proud and stately birds and their snow white plumage. Contrasting with blue shanks, bright red ear lobes and wattles, with horn colored beaks, present a fine picture. They are equally as good if not better layers than the white Wyandottes, and for a table fowl are unexcelled.

Nearly 3000 Hens.

A correspondent of the *Poultry Keeper* in Massachusetts, writes:

"Perhaps you would like to know about some of the poultrymen here. I visited, a short time ago, the farm of Mr. Flagg, of New Salem. His neighbors say he is making money on eggs for market, and he don't deny it. He has, at the present time, 1200 hens, mostly Leghorns. He is building a house this fall, 400 feet long and twenty feet wide, and he will put 1500 hens in it, which will make 2700 in all—quite a family. He has not raised any chicks this year, that is none to speak of, for he has got to buy the 1500. Don't you think it would have been better for him to raise them? [Yes.—Ed.] One of his neighbors has the hen fever quite badly, and has now 250 hens, 150 chicks, and a new house up, 200 feet long and twenty feet wide. He is going to put 750 hens in it. The houses have partitions, but only one yard to each house. They clean out houses once a year (once a week would suit me better). No boards under the roosts. In the fall they clean out the house and put in several inches of sand and it goes until another fall."

EDITORIAL.

THE FARMER.

The FARMER is replete with most interesting matter this week. Meetings of farmers' societies have been going on all about and important discussions held, and we have reports of those of most interest to our readers. We hope our readers will duly appreciate our issue and let their neighbors know of our being awake to the interest of the agriculturists. We have received the following from a valued subscriber, and think we may well publish it: "Your excellent paper, which you are improving with each issue, comes to hand regularly, and is indispensable in keeping me posted in regard to Maryland farm matters. Will you kindly change my address," etc. This is what we like. Reader, let us hear from you.

THE STATE GRANGE.

The Maryland State Grange began its annual session in the parlors of the Maltby House Tuesday. About two hundred male and female delegates were present, representing Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Howard, Montgomery, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Washington, Carroll, Kent, Cecil, Talbot and Caroline counties. Worthy Master Henry M. Murray, of Anne Arundel, presided, with William B. Sands, secretary. Reading of reports of the master, secretary, treasurer and lecturer was taken up. These papers showed the healthy condition of the order in the State in its separate departments. The report of the lecturer touched a little upon political matters, and intimated that the recent victory of tariff reform in the country was due to the concerted and determined action of the farmers. The operations and purposes of the order were discussed. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Mortimer Whitehead, of New Jersey, the lecturer of the National Grange. The progress of the order and its aims and purposes were set forth. Mr. Whitehead said: "At no time in its history has the grange stood so high in its own self respect and to the outside world as at present. We are beginning to find out that the farmer has business outside of the farm; that he has business in politics. We are now learning to come together. Work for the people is now the watchword—inside of party lines if we can, outside of them if we must. We have all read the proceedings of the Ocala convention, and we are in sympathy with the farmers who assembled there to formulate plans to better their condition, but if they admit to their deliberations certain individuals who would tax the land of the farmer and take it off the mansion of the rich, their permanency will be doubtful."

The session at the Maltby House was continued Wednesday. Three sessions were held. The morning session was given up to the reading of reports and resolutions from district granges. These were referred to proper committees. At the afternoon meeting the report of the executive committee was laid before the body. The report caused a discussion, which was prolonged into the evening session. It is a lengthy document and covers all the ground pertaining to

the government of the order in the State. An election for a new executive committee resulted in the election of Henry O. Devries, of Howard County, chairman, to succeed himself; Asa M. Stabler, of Montgomery County, vice Thomas F. Lansdale; John G. Clark, of Baltimore county, vice George W. Miller, of Frederick. Mr. Miller resigned from the committee to accept the position of State agent for the grange, which was tendered him. Edmund L. F. Hardcastle, of Talbot County, was chosen a member of the committee on the agricultural and experimental station. The evening session was occupied in discussing the reports of the standing committees.

Thursday's session of the Grange was occupied with reports and committee actions. Efforts looking towards the widening of the work of the Grange were discussed. Everything has gone along most harmoniously during the session and much benefit derived. As we go to press Thursday noon, it is thought that adjournment will be had after the evening session.

THE annual meeting of the Cecil County Agricultural Society was held to-day. The question whether the fair should be abandoned or not was discussed. \$2,335 56 was lost at the last fair. It was decided that at any further fairs held stockholders should be admitted free. The following motion of George W. Cruikshank was adopted: "That, having confidence in the present board of managers, they be re-elected, and that said board be instructed to confer with the creditors of the association to see if any arrangements can be made looking to the continuance of annual fairs and report at a meeting of the stockholders on Tuesday, February 10 next."

THE Maryland Trotting-Horse Breeders' Association held its annual meeting yesterday. A futurity stake to close January 1, 1891, was opened for foals of 1890. The officers of the club were re-elected for the ensuing year. Mr. Edward B. Emory, of Queen Anne's county, was elected a member of the board of directors in place of Mr. Charles Wooters, of Easton, and Mr. John Waters, of Baltimore, and Mr. G. O. Wilson, of Baltimore county, were added to the board.

THE fruit growers and farmers of Mississippi, are taking a great interest in horticulture; they are beginning to awake to the fact that their State is admirably adapted to fruit raising and are devoting more attention to it every year. The Mississippi State Horticultural Society will hold its meeting at Jackson, beginning December 10, and will continue four days. No less than twenty important papers will be read, discussions upon fruit, vegetables, flowers and kindred subjects will be in order.

Our illustration on the stock page of Baron Thame was taken about six years ago from the animal himself. He was then owned by Col. E. C. Legg, of Kent Island, Md. He was an imported ram, having been bought by a company in Ohio and afterwards purchased by Col. Legg. His weight of fleece was 23½ pounds. He died in 1887. Col. Legg has realized as much as 22½ pounds from some of his progeny which he now owns, and never less than from 12 to 14 pounds each.

THE State Grange of Delaware has been in session at Dover this week. About seventy-five members were in attendance. Their discussions have been of an interesting and instructive character and much benefit of course derived from them.

THE Farmers' Alliance has come out of the Ocala Convention with considerable credit. It has kept itself aloof from entangling political alliances and has nobly resisted the temptation to form a third party and start out in an independent political career.

TRUSTS are very fashionable just now. The threshing machine men are busy forming a gigantic trust, which will revise in extent the recently formed harvester trust. Companies representing nearly all the establishments of the country are in the deal. Those trusts are becoming a serious matter. With high tariff which keeps out foreign competition, and trusts which strangle home competition, the poor consumer is ground between the upper and nether millstones. Trusts should be legislated out of existence.

IN Delaware it is very probable that the Farmers' Alliance will, in a measure, dictate the legislation of the next General Assembly of Delaware, which will begin at Dover on Tuesday, January 6, 1891. At least twenty-five of the thirty members of the legislature are agriculturists, and they were nominated and elected by both parties on pledges of reform in State and county affairs. A revolution in general affairs is expected to take place. The Levy Court of New Castle county will be abolished and five commissioners substituted, thus virtually robbing the republicans of the fruits of their recent victory in New Castle. Similar charges may also be made in Kent and Sussex's legislation. The extravagant fees of various county officers will be materially reduced, and, in short, reform will be the watchword, and a strict adherence thereto is predicted.

An Australian expert gives the following on judging wool on live sheep: The finest and softest wool is always on the shoulders of the sheep. An expert in judging sheep always looks at the wool of the shoulders first. Always assuming that the wool to be inspected is really fine, we first examine the shoulders as a part where the finest wool is to be found. This we take as a standard, and compare it with the wool from the ribs, the thigh, the rump and shoulder parts, the nearer the wool from the various portions of the animal approaches the standard the better. First we scrutinize the fineness, and if the result is satisfactory we pronounce the fleece in respect to fineness very "even." Next we scrutinize the length of the staple, and we find that the wool on the ribs, thighs and back, approximates reasonably in length to that of our standard, we again declare the fleece, as regards length of staple, "true and even." We next satisfy ourselves as to the density of the fleece, and we do this by closing the hand upon a portion of the rump and lion wool, these points being usually the most faulty. If this again gives satisfaction we designate all the wool "even to density." Now to summarize these separate examinations; If the fleece is nearly of equal length on shoulder, rib and back, and density on shoulder and across the lions, we conclude that we have a perfect sheep for producing valuable wool.

MEETING OF THE PENINSULA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, JANUARY 20, 21, 22, 1891.

The next meeting of the Peninsula Horticultural Society will be held in Easton, Talbot County, Md., January 20, 21 and 22, 1891. From the assurances given by prominent workers in Horticulture in Delaware and Maryland, and those in the United States Department of Agriculture, there is no doubt but that this meeting will be of unusual interest. The practical results that have been secured this year by horticultural investigations especially such as concern the people of this peninsula, will be given. Dr. A. T. Neale, Director of the Delaware Experiment Station, and Prof. Beckwith, Horticulturist of the same station, will be present and read papers and enter into the discussions upon the topics with which their work has been connected this year. Major Henry E. Alvord has taken a great interest in this meeting and promises the following lectures by members of the Maryland Station: "The Causes of Failures in Horticulture," by Prof. Thomas L. Brunk, (Department of Botany and Horticulture); "The Tomato, and the work of the Maryland Agriculture Experiment Station," by Henry E. Alvord, Director. "The Chemistry of the Tomato," by Harry J. Patterson, Chemist. "Foods for Man and Beast," by Major Alvord. "Adulteration of Foods and Household Chemistry," by H. J. Patterson. "Milk, its Production, Care and Value as Food," by Henry E. Alvord. "Hints on Home Adornment, the Door-yard, Garden and House," with Stereopticon illustrations, by Prof. T. L. Blank. Prof. Gallowsay, Chief of Division of Plant Pathology of the Agricultural Department, will be in attendance, and tell what his workers have accomplished this season in fighting the various "bacteria" that cause so many diseases of our useful plants and fruit. Dr. Erwin F. Smith will talk about Peach Yellows. It is probable that Mr. H. E. Vandeman, United States Pomologist, will be present, and also Dr. Halsted of New Jersey.

This appears like a formidable array of scientific talent, but these lectures are mostly upon very practical subjects and these men will bring us facts of every day interest to our fruit growers. Especially instructive will be the paper upon the use of the fungicides in combating plant diseases. There will also be no lack of papers by practical fruit growers, and a large attendance of intelligent farmers, who will participate in the discussions, will add to the general interest. There will be no lack of useful information to be obtained by attending these meetings and no fruit or vegetable grower, and indeed no farmer can afford to stay away.

The work of this organization of farmers is most successful. It is a voluntary association, composed of the progressive, intelligent fruit growers and market gardeners of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The whole expenses of holding the meetings and of publishing the annual report, which is a large pamphlet, full of valuable information, is borne by the members. They organized not only for their own benefit, but to promote the welfare of all horticulturists in these three States. For this reason it is entitled to all the help and encouragement that can be given it. From now until the meeting, every newspaper on the Peninsula

would be doing a good service to its readers and to the cause of horticulture, by keeping facts of interest connected with the association constantly before the public. This will be highly appreciated by the officers and members of the association, and will add greatly to its usefulness.

KENT COUNTY, DEL., FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The Farmers' Institute of Kent County met in Milford on November 26, with Hon. T. B. Coursey in the chair. In the absence of the Secretary, Wesley Webb was chosen to serve in that capacity. A joint institute session of the three counties of Delaware will probably be held in Dover, in January.

The president was first on the programme, and read a paper on commercial fertilizers, as to whether farmers were benefited by them. He finished by saying: "Farmers are benefited by the use of commercial fertilizers, especially when they own the land they cultivate. But the tenant is not benefited by their use while wheat remains below a dollar a bushel. With wheat at eighty cents per bushel he will lose money, every time, but when a dollar and over, both landlord and tenant will be benefited."

J. G. Brown, brought up the subject of clover, in discussing Mr. Coursey's paper, and thought, judging from the Experiment Station's reports that scarlet clover almost made fertilizers unnecessary. Then came the query, "Will scarlet clover grow in the first instance without the use of commercial fertilizers?" It was thought the fertilizer is needed and it could not be discarded.

Prof. Chester then threw pictures of trees upon a screen, etc., and gave an extended account of different experiments. A vote of thanks was tendered him. After some further questions of minor interest, had been discussed, the Institute adjourned to meet in Felton, soon.

The Still Pond Farmers' Club of Kent County, Maryland, according to appointment met at the home of Mr. Wm. Bowers on the 27th of November and organized with the president, Mr. W. D. Pennington, in the chair. Mr. J. W. Stover, of Edgemont, Washington County and Mr. J. W. Hickman, of Chester County, Pa., were guests for the day.

The growing treatment and marketing of asparagus came up for discussion. The raising of this crop is eliciting a wide spread interest in this section of the county. The sentiment prevailed almost unanimously at this meeting that the net revenue per acre never fell below \$100 and in many cases exceed \$200. Much diversity of opinion prevailed in regard to the proper mode of treatment or manner of cultivation of this crop. The use of salt was advised as it induced moisture and rendered the ground mellow. Cutting early was urged as a good means of getting ahead of the beetle which only depredates after sunrise. Larger varieties should be planted. Mr. J. M. Stover stated that in Western Md., they use bone and kainit as an application for peach trees with good results. Many of the members use kainit with no appreciable advantage, believing that if used freely, close to the trunk would kill the trees. The question was asked, "How can our school system be improved?" Mrs. E. B. Pennington answered: "By making agricultural chemistry one of the leading studies, especially for boys." The question—"Is a cow making 150 pounds of butter per annum a profitable investment?" E. B. Pennington answered by saying: "She will just about pay and possibly yield a small profit to her owner." The question for debate at the next, is, "Shall we encourage our sons to become farmers?" The next meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. E. B. Pennington, Tuesday, December 30, 1890.

Alliance Page.

While this journal is not an official organ, of the Farmers' Alliance, it is in entire sympathy with that movement and heartily believes in a thorough and systematic organization among farmers to protect their interests. In this column, Alliance news will be presented, and matters akin to that movement discussed. Correspondence is cordially invited.

The Alliance officers, in this state and their addresses are:
 President, Hugh Mitchell, Port Tobacco.
 Secretary, T. Canfield Jenkins, Pomonkey.
 State Lecturer, . . R. D. Bradley, Preston.

THE OCALA CONVENTION.

The Ocala convention of the National Alliance finished its session Monday. The most hearty congratulation of all interested is due the members for the manner in which they have acquitted themselves. Cool and deliberate action is portrayed in the measures and actions endorsed. It is proposed to have a large national gathering next summer and to further the cause in every way. The work progresses so well thus far that success and victory of the Alliance seems but awaiting the continuance of past methods.

The re-election of President Polk was unanimously carried amid great enthusiasm, thus showing the confidence his friends had in him notwithstanding the charges of some persons that he had made alliances in his native state looking to his own personal interests during the recent campaign. Mr. Macune holds over. Very few changes were made in the different officers. Willets, of Kansas, who is the candidate in Kansas against Ingalls for the senatorship, was made lecturer of the national bank, which will be a great assistance in his fight.

The St. Louis platform was unanimously adopted after a few amendments. The sub-treasury bill is not in this platform. It provides for the free coinage of silver and expansion of the currency by the issue of treasury notes direct to the people, without the intervention of banks, in sufficient volume to meet the business requirements of the country and as cheaply as the banks now get it. The issue is to be based upon the products of industry, and not on bonds, as at present, through the national banking system. This plan omits details that have given rise to discussion, and it is widely different from the bill which has been introduced in Congress.

The St. Louis platform also called for the ownership and control by government of the lines of transportation and communication, railroads and telegraphic companies. The alliance amended this plank by adopting a compromise giving the government the liberty to control these lines, and if that is not done satisfactorily, then for the government to assume absolute control and ownership. There is also a plank in the St. Louis platform requiring that the duty levied by the government on imports, the tariff, shall bear evenly on all consumers, embodying the idea of equal justice to all and favor to none, and that the revenue shall not exceed the needs of economical expenditure for government purposes, with no

surplus. There is also a clause prohibiting the alien ownership of lands in the United States, and requiring the government to recover all such holdings and open them to actual settlers. These are the chief points of the platform. Among other amendments adopted, was one requiring that all alliance officials shall support the same, with the Ocala amendments, under penalty of suspension, and that no candidate for national office shall receive the support of alliance membership unless he pledges himself in writing to support the St. Louis platform. Any subordinate alliance not in accord with the platform will be suspended at the will of the president.

Dr. Macune the chairman of national executive committee, and publisher of the National Economist at Washington, D. C., made a report recommending a reduction of all salaries of Alliance officers and the removal of the president's office from Washington. He stated that there is no need of urging measures on Congress by outsiders when forty Alliance Congressmen were there to do so. He thought it was only a question of a short time when all the relief the farmers asked would come, if not from the Congress itself, by the pressure behind it. His motions except in regard to salaries were lost.

On Friday afternoon of the session T. V. Powderly, the chief of the Knights of Labor, arrived in Ocala, and made a speech to the delegates. The purpose of his visit was to propose a confederation of his order and that of the farmers.

In his speech Mr. Powderly announced the action of the Knights calling a conference at Washington next year looking to independent political action on the basis of land, currency and transportation reforms. He and the committee were now here to urge the farmers to send delegates to this conference, not to a nominating convention or to make a ticket, but, to prepare for the immediate future and to go into the political field if considered advisable. In concluding he asked the farmers to participate in this conference, and stated that the Knights were ready to go with them as far as they wanted to go. The speech was attentively listened to, and made a very great impression.

On Saturday President Hall, of the Missouri Alliance made a long speech in opposition to the sub-treasury plan in toto. He began by saying that every dollar that he had in the world was invested in farms and lands, and that none of this property was less than seventeen miles from the nearest town or nearest railroad. He was, therefore, as much interested in this subject as anybody, but did not indorse the sub-treasury plan. "I am," he said, "uncompromisingly opposed to this scheme, and for the following reasons: First, it is in violation of the constitution of the United States; highest prices. They are hardy and less liable to disease second, it is subversive of and directly opposed to the constitution, principles and demands of our own order, third, it is unjust and inequitable; fourth, it is very extravagant; fifth, it would bring financial ruin to the farmers of our entire country and to all other classes of business; will have and is now having the effect of drawing the minds of farmers and other laborers of our country from the greatest curse of the age, class legislation, and, if adopted, will commit us to that principle which will fasten these curses upon us for all time."

The Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association which is a strong organization in Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, within a year will be thoroughly assimilated with the Alliance.

Stock Raisers' Column.



This column will be devoted to the interests of breeders and stock raisers, and especial attention will be paid to matters pertaining to the breeding and development of light harness and trotting horses. Correspondence is invited.

HEAVY rains in the fall will do no end of injury to the colts if left unprotected in the pastures. The old theory that roughing it made the colt hardy has long since been exploded. Careful breeders take their young stock from the pastures at the commencement of the fall rains and put them where they find shelter. If the pasture is provided with a shed to the south under which the colts may stand out of the wind and rain, they will do well left out as long as the feed lasts. But to leave them out in such chilly rains as that of late is a serious mistake. They may not take cold, but are liable to, and lung fever is not an infrequent result of too much exposure. A colt will not take on flesh or increase in size while shivering in the rain. The aim of every breeder should be to keep his colts growing every day until they are fully matured. Fat is not desirable, but good, solid flesh is. A shed or stable and plenty of hay and oats are necessary to keep the youngster growing. Don't neglect them just when they need care the most.

THE following from the *Frederick Citizen* reiterates what the *Maryland Farmer* has long contended—that our State is as well adapted for stock raising as any in the Union. And our farmers should rise to their opportunities in that line. Many of the visitors to Frederick county recently, and who have had their attention called to its fitness as a stock-raising section, speak of it in the highest terms. There is no section of the Union where a more beautiful agricultural county can be found. Kentucky cannot boast of better lands than we have from the Potomac, to Mason & Dixon's line. No better limestone exists, and no purer water ever found its way from the mountains than that which waters our beautiful valleys. The same warm sunshine that makes the grass grow in Kentucky, gives us as many tons of hay to the acre as can be raised in any part of the blue grass region. The bone and muscle imparted in Kentucky by their limestone soil, by their blue grass and fine water, are all here in Frederick county.

Instead of purchasers from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore, spending days on the cars journeying to Kentucky, a few hours will bring them to this beautiful section. Just as soon as it is known that numbers of our farmers are turning their attention to raising fine stock, just so soon will visitors be found flocking to our city and

country. There must be a mutual interest in this business. Every one should strive to aid and assist the other. No back-biting, no shrugs of the shoulder, or words to detract from merits claimed by others in the business. We must do as they do in Kentucky; if we cannot please the buyers, send them to our neighbor, though we may not have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Only a few years ago, such a thing as a standard-bred horse, was unknown in the entire county, yet in years gone by we had reputation of raising some of the finest stock in the State. To-day we have some sixteen standard-bred stallions owned in this county, combining the blood of such noted sires, as, Lord Russel, William L., King Wilkes, Young Jim, Abdoliah West, Forest Gold Dust, Idol Gift, Jay Gould and others. We have also some of the finest bred mares in the country, with blood lines reaching to Fair Belle, Waterwitch, Star Maid and other well-known producing dams.

Our farmers are beginning to realize that it does not cost more to raise a well-bred colt than it does to keep a Conestoga. The early development of the youngsters is receiving the attention of our breeders, and as an evidence of the success attending their efforts, Frederick county turned out in 1889 five two-year-olds that beat three minutes. In 1890 our breeders obtained records for their three-year-olds as low down as 2:33, Estelina gaining this mark at Pimlico, and Currito making his record at Bennings', at Washington, in 2:40, and Luckey winning a mark of 2:37 as a four-year-old.

We are not indulging in fancy hopes when we unhesitatingly predict that some of the youngsters bred and raised in this county will enter the charmed list in 1891. This is destined to be a great stock county, and we feel sure our farmers will soon realize the fact that it will pay them to raise a few well-bred colts. As soon as the breeders from other sections can be induced to visit Frederick county, they will find in our midst a number of the finest stock farms in the Union.

Mr. Seth Griffin the famous constructor of race tracks, is pushing along the work at Col. Baughman's stock farm, near this city. Some sixty odd hands are hustling along, and things look lovely. Mr. Adam Eichelberger is now engaged in erecting additional stabling for thirteen head of youngsters. He is also putting up a pair of Osgood & Thompson scales, manufactured at Bermington, New York.

Mr. D. V. Stauffer, of Prospect Stock Farm near Frederick City, has added to his collection of blooded animals two superior horses. He has just purchased a standard Wilkes stallion, bred in Kentucky by George Wilkes Simmons. He is a solid bay, sixteen hands high and sired by a great son of George Wilkes. Young Jim, who has thirteen in the 2:30 list, is also by a producing dam. The other animal is a black imported Percheron, coming five years old, large and of good action.

A CALF can be prevented from having horns by an application of crude potash to the spot where the incipient horn can be felt—so an authority says. The cost is next to nothing. The plan of de-horning is gaining in favor, and done in this way has much to commend it.

ENGLISH BREEDS OF SHEEP.

A correspondent asks the *Rural New Yorker*, would a pure bred Hampshire Down ram make a good cross on pure bred Southdown ewes? What is the difference between the Hampshire, Oxford and Shropshire sheep? Which is the largest of the three? Would the Lincoln sheep be a good breed to raise for wool and mutton? Are sheep of this breed the largest? The reply is: The Hampshire is a larger sheep than the Southdown and the cross contemplated would increase the size of the cross bred sheep. As a rule, cross-breeds, the progeny of two different pure breeds, gain in size over either of the parents. The difference between the breeds mentioned consists in several points; they are all cross breeds and English in their origin, and all have Southdown blood in them. The Hampshire originated eighty or ninety years ago in a cross between a large, white-faced, horned sheep of the county of Hampshire and the pure Southdown. By

age weights of the sheep mentioned are about two-thirds of those fat wethers given below:

	Weight of Lambs, Sheep.	Weight of Lambs.
Leicester.....	254	165
Cotswold.....	277	174
Lincolns.....	321	191
Southdowns.....	217	163
Hampshire.....	269	198
Shropshire.....	241	148
Oxfordshire.....	293	183
Cross-breeds.....	288	213

The Lincoln is the largest of all sheep and its fleece is the longest. Fat wethers of this breed have reached a weight of over 400 pounds, and the wool a length of sixteen inches. The Hampshire, as the weight of the lambs will show, is remarkable for its early growth and the size of the lambs



selection and some crossing with the Cotswold this breed has been brought up to a large size and made to produce a valuable long-wooled fleece. The Oxfordshire sheep is a cross between the Hampshire and the Cotswold made sixty years ago. It is a large sheep and has a fleece finer than the Cotswold, and coarser than the Hampshire's. Its fleece is not so black as that of the Hampshire. The Shropshire is of rather mixed progeny. It came from the cross of the Cotswold on the Morfe-Common sheep, a black-faced, horned kind, small, but very hardy. This cross was further mixed with Leicester blood and finally with Southdown. The breed is about 100 years old. It is smaller than the other two, but larger than the Southdown, and has a longer, somewhat coarser fleece, but of the same class of wool—"medium clothing." The relative sizes may be seen by comparing the following weights of the prize fat wethers and lambs under a year old at the English shows of the past fall months. The common aver-

will show, is remarkable for its early growth and the size of the lambs. For the production of early lambs, its quick growth and black face give it an advantage over all other breeds. The Lincoln breed has been imported to a small extent, but it has proved quite unsuitable to the American climate and conditions of feeding. It is rapidly retrograding in England and giving away to Oxfords and Shropshires. If not loaded with fat it is nothing but a "bag of bones," and the taste for excessive fat mutton is disappearing even in England; consequently this breed would not be a good one for any American farmer for any purpose. The Shropshire is hardy, yields the best mutton and a very good fleece of excellent wool, rears its lamb well and is not particular about the climate or locality. In these respects it surpasses all the others named except the Southdown, and it surpasses this in its size and the weight of its fleece and the latter is a matter of consideration and money.



PETUNIA.

THE PETUNIA.

Petunia. [Solanaceæ.] These showy, soft-stemmed, shrubby perennials are closely allied to Nierembergia. The garden Petunias have sprung from *P. nyctaginiflora* and *violacea*; the latter, in its original form, is one of the richest of all plants for bedding out in flower-garden, owing to its brilliant color. There are, however, few families in which cultivation has effected such a revolution as in this; for from the

slimy flowers of the old white, and the pointed blossoms of the old purple, have been produced flowers of a circular outline, with thick corollas, and fluctuating colors. Petunias are propagated either by seed or cuttings. Seeds may be sown in March, on a hot-bed, and the plants treated as half-hardy annuals. Cuttings strike freely placed in a frame, with bottom heat; they should be planted in March and April, being obtained from old plants placed in heat.



WOMAN'S CORNER.

▼ MRS. MARY L. GADDESS, EDITRESS.

This department of THE FARMER will be made of special worth to the ladies of the farmer's household. Fashions in dress, latest ideas of ornamentation, flowers, etiquette, and all subjects in which they may be interested will be fully discussed and in a chatty manner. MRS. GADDESS, the editress, a well-known writer of this city, cordially invites correspondence on matters of interest in this column and will answer any questions with pleasure.

Many shoppers are already taking advantage of the bright weather to lay in their supply of Christmas things. And it would seem a very wise precaution, for from past experience we know how frequently we have had charming weather up to a few days before the great holiday and then in snow, hail and sleet was compelled to complete our purchases which might have been pleasantly done weeks before.

It is a mistaken idea that things will be cheaper, or you will get a larger stock to select from. The storekeepers are wise enough to make hay while the sun shines, and you will have plenty of all sorts of styles, but the only chance for lower prices is to wait till January. For persons contemplating the purchase of dress goods, coats, or anything that they can wait for it will pay to do so. You will be astonished at the change after the holidays are over.

The windows in the city stores are perfect pictures and one grows bewildered among so many beautiful things. Oh, dear, what lovely things we would buy everybody were our pocket-books full.

There are scores of lovely things that we may get upon reasonable terms and then the delightful task of preparing them is before us. No one who has not tried it, can imagine the pleasure (to a woman anyhow) of setting down with a basket of delightful possibilities in the way of silks, satins, velvet, cardboard, ribbons and all sorts of odds and ends, to manufacture for the dear ones with our own hands some little gifts. Of course, they are chiefly prized for the love that went into the work; it is not for the money value of the gift. Christmas is a special day and it seems to bring peculiar feelings with it of "love and good will to all." Let us remember this and though our purses may be light our hearts may be glad and warm.

How can any one even think of the cold, if fortunate enough to possess one of those new cloth dresses that come in such light weights and delicious texture, and not so expensive either. They make one feel comfortable even to look at them and are worn by old and young.

Since the cold days with the fall of snow has given a "gentle reminder" that winter intends to visit us, the long coats have appeared, and the dainty short jackets have received their relegation to the chest in the store rooms till Spring.

Modists have talked earnestly about their being worn all winter but when the winds begin to whistle around, gladly one and all consent to wrap the drapery of a good warm coat about them.

Petticoats of all kinds are offered; quilted silk, satin, swansdown flannel, in fact, everything and anything save white muslin. They are no longer used and you must put them away till Summer.

There are many things just now claiming attention in the way of delicacies which can be successfully prepared at home. It is not necessary to be a French confectioner to make a superior candy to that sold under that name. These things are always better when fresh, so do not make too many at once. In large stores they are prepared daily. Cream Chocolates are always in demand and easily made. Take white of one egg, and about same quantity of water, beat together and stir enough confectioners' sugar to make a stiff enough paste to be moulded by the hands without sticking. It hardens quickly so do not get too stiff. Two pounds of sugar will make a large quantity of candy, and if you do not care to make it all up at once, it can be set aside closely covered in a cool place, and use as required.

Roll your paste into balls the size of a marble, and lay on sugared board, or plate, so they do not touch each other, and put in a cool place while you shave some chocolate in a pan and set in a saucepan of boiling water until melted; then drop your balls of sugar in and roll about till well covered. Carefully lift out and lay on plate to cool.

Another delicious candy is made of a flat cake of the plain paste flavored with almond, and having pressed down into it firmly one-half of an English walnut.

For burnt almonds simply roll into balls, with one almond inside of each sugar marble. You can blanch your almonds by dropping them into boiling water and letting them lay awhile. The skins can be stripped off then.

But amid all the busy preparation for the next few weeks don't forget your flowers. If you have any glasses of Hyacinths, bring them into the sunshine now. Don't forget to sprinkle well for fires are burning at their best, and that means a close atmosphere for your pets.

MRS. M. L. GADDESS.

The California Horse.

Charles Dudley Warner, in *Harper's Magazine* for December, says: "In reading the accounts of early days in California I am struck with the endurance of hard-ship, exposure, and wounds by the natives and the adventures, the rancheros, horse-men, herdsmen, the descendants of soldiers, and the Indians, their insensibility to fatigue, and their agility and strength. This is ascribed to the climate; and what is true of men is true of the native horse. His only rival in strength, endurance, speed, and intelligence is the Arabian. It was long supposed that this was racial, and that but for the smallness of the size of the native horse, crossing with it would improve the breed of the Eastern and Kentucky racers. But there was reluctance to cross finely proportioned Eastern with his diminutive brother. The importation and breeding of Thoroughbreds on this coast has led to the discovery that the desirable qualities of the California horse were not racial but climatic. The Eastern horse has been found to improve in size, compactness of muscle, in strength of limb, in wind, with a marked increase in power of endurance. The traveler here notices the fine horses and their excellent condition, and the power and endurance of those that have considerable age. The records made on Eastern race-courses by horses from California breeding farms have already attracted attention. It is also remarked that the Eastern horse is usually improved greatly by a sojourn of a season or two on this coast, and the plan of bringing Eastern race horses here for the winter is already adopted."

Markets.

BALTIMORE, DEC. 11, 1890.

General trade, except in seasonable specialties is rather quiet. Southern wheat is firm, higher, scarce and wanted. Corn is in increased supply and steady at some advance. Oats are plentiful for the moment and slightly easier, while Rye is in light supply, good demand and higher. Seeds are dull and about unchanged. Eggs are in light receipt and firmer. Potatoes are scarce and higher.

Spot wheat.....	\$ 94½ a....
December.....	94½ a....
May.....	1 02 a 1 02½
Southern Fultz.....	93 a 1 01.
Longberry.....	93 a 1 01.
Stock.....	813.025
Yellow corn.....	216.298
White do.....	53 a58½
Mixed Spot and December...	58½ a....
The year.....	58 a....
Stock.....	58½ a....
Rye, whole range.....	75 a81
Stock.....	24.520
Oats, whole range.....	49 a52½
Stock.....	57.470
Family Flour, per barrel....	4 50a5 00
Clover Seed.....	6¼a 7¼
Timothy Seed.....	1 35a1 45
Hay, per ton.....	9 00a11 00
Eggs, per dozen.....	27a 28

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HOW TO BUILD A CHEAP ICE HOUSE.

Chas. P. Jackson of the Jackson Refrigerator Co., Chicago, gives the readers of the *American Creamery* his idea how a cheap ice house should be built. He is a gentleman who has had untold experience in cold storage and ice house building business, and his word may be taken as authority:

I herewith submit my plan of building a cheap ice house. Use 2x6 sills and plates, with twelve foot posts, with three courses of 2x4 ribbing all round, three feet apart put in edgewise. Ceil with culls put on vertically, and make it a point to always get out of lumber when you get to the eaves, so the gable end will be sure to be left open. Fill up the ground inside a little higher than the outside, then put down any old chunk of rails or joist, a little distance apart, and cover between and over with a foot of sawdust, or its equivalent in straw or prairie hay. Put your ice sixteen inches away from the wall, and fill between the ice and the wall with sawdust or its equivalent in straw or prairie hay, as you fill with ice. Break joints over each course of ice when filling. When filled, cover with six to seven inches of sawdust or its equivalent and then get out of sawdust. You don't want ten or twelve inches of sawdust on top of the ice. There is a latent heat in ice, and if too much covering on top, the heat will not be able to pass up through it and will turn back and honeycomb the ice. With a covering twelve inches of sawdust, in every case an examination will show heat during the hot months by digging down a few inches.

Never put water on your ice as you fill your ice house, if you expect to remove the cakes of ice as put in. In cold storage houses it is often the case that water is used to solidify the mass. In such cases use hot water with a sprinkler, as the moment the hot water comes in contact with the ice it congeals. Use cold water and it will run and spread, and if the ice is put in contact with the walls the chances are that in freezing it will spread the building.

The roof may be also covered with culls. Suppose it does leak, the dripping will not extend down into the sawdust to any appreciable extent. A ventilator in the roof is not necessary, with both gables open.

The wastage in a house built as here described is small compared to others to say nothing of the difference in cost. The practical experience of ice dealers and consumers with whom I have come in contact the past twenty-five years are my authority. Experience I have always found to be a safer school of instruction than theory, even though theory be first class.

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MILES

AROUND

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EYE.

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shows the small end of the tele-

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FARMING IN FOREIGN LANDS.

The highest price ever realized for a black faced ram was recently taken by a Scotch farmer, the amount being about \$250.

The first attempt to improve the native swine of Siberia has recently been made, by shipping improved Yorkshires from England to Krasnoyarsk, Siberia.

At a recent sale of Shropshire rams in England, one shearling ram was sold for \$787.50, and a pen of five averaged \$367.50 each, the two highest bringing respectively \$577.50 and \$525.

The famous thoroughbred stallion Ver-neuil, which was bought in England for \$50,000 by the Hungarian government, died recently at the imperial stud at Kisber, Hungary. Twenty of his descendants are at Kisber.

It is stated by scottish papers that a perfect cure for pleuro-pneumonia has been found in "paraffin oil," or, as Americans would say, kerosene. It is administered by thrusting a sponge saturated with the oil into one nostril and holding the other tight, so that the animal must inhale the remedy with its breath. Perfect success is claimed for the new remedy.

The dairy industry has increased to more than three times its former magnitude since the invention of the centrifugal separator. The exports of butter in 1883 were 19,000,000 pounds, which in 1885 rose to 26,000,000, and then advanced rapidly to 60,000,000 pounds, the present figure. Instead of exporting grain the country now imports large quantities. The number of associated dairies continues to increase, while many of the old ones are being enlarged and improved. Taking the country over, they are said to have given satisfactory results.

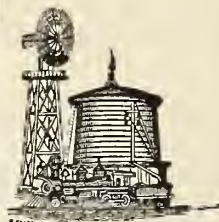
QUINCE LEAF BLIGHT.—A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* writes them as follows: "Judge Strong, of New Brunswick suggested to me that nitrate of soda was a specific for quince leaf blight. I sprayed my quince trees with a weak solution of it and watered the ground under the trees, as far as roots extended, with a stronger solution. The year previous (1889) all the trees were more or less affected with blight, but this year only one tree, which was left without nitrate, was affected. All that were treated with nitrate were free from blight." It is not necessary to apply the nitrate in solution as a fertilizer. Sow it early broadcast over all the land as far as the roots extend. It is very soluble, and the moisture in the soil will dissolve it. Do not depend on nitrate alone. Use phosphate and potash as well.

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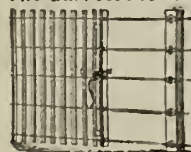
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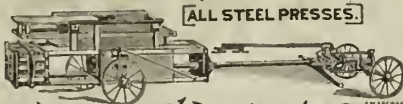
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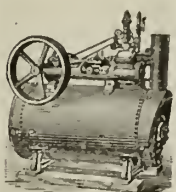
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